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Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SS-20 /029 R

66618
DRAFTED BY S/NM:SBVANCE:SCT
APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE
S:LSEAGLEBURGER EUR/TUR:BHIRSHORN
S/S-MR. LUERS
---------- 100952
R 202140Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208174

STADIS//////////////////
LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ANKARA 7337 SENT ACTION SECSTATE SEP 14TH.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7337

STADIS

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TU
SUBJ: POPPIES

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION I POSED TO PRIMIN SEPT 13 AS TO WHAT COULD BE SAID TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE GOT STRAW-PROCESS DECISION, HE SUGGESTED THAT WE TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE:

"THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE THAT IN HARVESTING THE POPPIES, INCISION OF THE HEADS WILL BE AVOIDED.
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WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT

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THAT THEY ARE ALREADY STUDYING THE PRACTICAL, LEGAL, AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PUTTING THIS PRINCIPLE INTO EFFECT BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING HARVESTING SEASON."

2. I ASKED IF WE COULD REPLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE IF THIS STATEMENT, IN TURN, ELICITED THE QUESTION, "DOES THIS MEAN THAT TURKEY IS ADOPTING THE STRAW PROCESS?" HE REPLIED, "YES."

3. PRIMIN STRESSED HIS HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD PASS THE WORD ON THIS SUBJECT IN A FAIRLY LOW-KEY WAY. THE FONMIN, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, THEN NOTED THAT THE GOT ANNOUNCEMENT HAD NOT REFERRED TO THE STRAW PROCESS BECAUSE (A) NO FARMER WOULD KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND (B) THE GOT HAD WANTED TO AVOID AROUSING SUSPICIONS THAT SOMETHING DIFFERENT WAS GOING TO BE DONE THAT WOULD END UP TAKING MONEY OUT OF THE FARMER'S POCKET. THAT WAS WHY, GUNES EXPLAINED, THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT WAS SUCH A CONVOLUTED ONE, AND WHY IT FOCUSED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION THAT ITS DIFFERENT PROCEDURES WOULD NOT END UP LOSING MONEY FOR THE FARMER.

4. GUNES ADDED THAT WHILE HE WAS AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HE HOPED TO CONTACT COMPETENT UN AND US AUTHORITIES ON THE STRAW PROCESS AND ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH US PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES.
MACOMBER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, AGRICULTURAL CONTROLS, STRAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE208174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SBVANCE:SCT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740266-0052
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740926/aaaaavwm.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPPIES
TAGS: SNAR, TU, (GUNES)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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